

CURIOUS DEBT COLLECTING.

Methods Adopted by Governments of Various Countries.

A debt collecting agency which is run as a part of the regular public postal system is the newest "improvement" of the postoffice of Austria. Despite the novelty of the enterprise the plan has worked admirably, so that millions of dollars are collected annually by the postmen throughout the Austrian empire. The system is very simple. Suppose a tradesman in Vienna has an account due from a customer in, say, such a distant town as Budapest, which he wishes to collect. Distance does not matter in the least. He merely sends the bill to the postoffice in the capital, whence it is at once transmitted to the postoffice in Budapest. There the postman presents it to the debtor, collects the cash, and remits it to the Vienna postoffice, whence it is delivered to the tradesman by postman.

In the event of payment being refused, which, of course, sometimes happens, the creditor is promptly apprised of the fact, and valuable time is thus frequently saved.

Of the enterprises which have been devised for collecting debts there is no end. A government collecting agency would put an end to many vexatious picture schemes. The recent case of the Turkish government is naturally recalled in this connection. The Turkish government is notorious for dilatory payment of its officials. About a year ago the pasha of a district in Palestine, applying for his salary, was ordered from Constantinople to collect it locally in the shape of a new tax. One town refused to pay its proportion of the sum demanded, whereupon the ingenious Government ordered ten days' strict quarantine, other towns that there was a case of cholera in the place. A military cordon was set round the town, trade was put an end to, and soon the unhappy and starving inhabitants were only too glad to pay up.

Liquor dealers in England have recently adopted the device of drawing the names of non-payers and circulating it among themselves. When a man finds that credit for liquor is being given everywhere in the town he either leaves out of the place or pays up. Hotel keepers have a similar scheme. A printed sheet of what are termed "deadbeats"—visitors who have slipped away without settling their bills—is sent monthly to every hotel of any size. Full descriptions and, where possible, photographs are inserted.

A unique way of collecting wages due was that of a harpist who waited until his employer had given orders for the saloon to be closed and had gone home. Then he entered the place again and did another harp's tune. Believing from his tunes the money due to himself, he left the room in an exultant mood, the counter with a note explaining what he had done, and then left the town.

Landlords whose property lies in the lower quarters of great cities often had much difficulty in collecting their weekly rents. One who owns a number of tenements and who has once or twice been roughly handled by his tenants has resorted to the expedient of hiring a stout young ex-harpist, whose broad shoulders and deep chest render him an awkward subject to interfere with. This man being entered a tenant and blows a shrill whistle, the host of which is usually sufficient to bring out the delinquents with their handfuls of small change.

A similar expedient tried in London did not work so well. An Italian who owned a house in Sadler's Hill let it to a tenant who, after a time, not only failed to pay his debts, but also refused to clear out. The landlord thereupon entered the house with a hammer and began to play it on his organ, hoping by sheer din to either drive his recalcitrant tenant out or force him to pay up. He stuck to this self-imposed task for four hours on end, but the only result was that the neighbors, furious at the noise, had him arrested and next day he was duly fined.

Ways of the Masai.

Mr. Harry Johnston writes of the Masai, that African race which has been giving so much trouble to Germany of late. "The young men are all warriors, theoretically, between the ages approximately of 17 and 21. When in this stage they are known in their own language as el murin. They pull the head of hair out to its exact length, even sometimes twisting and plaiting fiber and string into their work. The hair is then thickly coated with mutton fat and red clay and tied into pikes. All hair on the face and body is plucked out by iron tweezers. The skin is kept extremely lubricated with mutton fat mixed with red clay, but as a rule the body is not disagreeably oily, and this lubrication only has the result of giving a beautiful polish to their statue-like forms.

As regards the body, there is probably no more beautifully formed type of man than the young Masai warrior. The face is sometimes in keeping with the body, but more often has a rather brutal aspect. The Masai are not pure negroes, but obviously received a very long while ago a slight infusion of Hamitic blood from races dwelling to the east of the White Nile. While they are in the young-man-warrior state the Masai live principally on blood drawn from the veins of living cattle. They also occasionally eat the meat of oxen, goats or sheep.

"When a Masai decides that he has had enough knocking about and has accumulated sufficient property on which to retire he decides to marry. This is usually about the age of 27 to 28. After marriage he shaves his head very close cropped.

POLICE MILITARY RELICS.

Compelled to Wear Brass Buttons and Be Easy Targets.

Practically all armies now have uniforms of khaki or other inconspicuous material for active fighting. Brass buttons have disappeared with the velvet coats in which English soldiers made themselves targets for American Indians a century and a half ago. Even the parade uniforms of modern troops are quiet.

But one place brass buttons hold their own. The policeman in most countries, and especially in the United States, have to wear them on parade and on the firing line. The thought of a policeman in his double row of brass buttons is as pleasant to the burglar, the hold-up man, the street beggar and crookdom generally as was the sight of Braddock's regulars to the Indians who ambushed them near Fort Duquesne in 1755.

Much of a patrolman's night work consists of prowling around dark alleys and back doors in deserted business districts. He is permitted to wear rubber-heeled shoes, and can be more or less silent. He can lurk in shadows and often get the start of a stealthy crook. But the moment he steps into a street light or even comes up an alley in the dark he is as visible as though he were illuminated. His double row of brass buttons make him not only a walking sign post on the darkest night, but also a plain target if it comes to shooting.

The rights of the soldier the world over to offer as inconspicuous as a shooting mark as possible have been universally admitted. But the industrious policeman is still hampered by an antiquated tradition in the matter of uniform. He is a military anachronism.

Unnecessary Expense.

Acute attacks of colic and diarrhoea come on without warning and prompt relief must be obtained. There is no necessity of incurring the expense of a physician's service in such cases if Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is at hand. A dose of this remedy will relieve the patient before a doctor could arrive. It has never been known to fail, even in the most severe and dangerous cases, and no family should be without it. For sale by all druggists.

The Turkey.

The turkey is an American bird. Lacullus and the Epicureans did not know about him. He was found in his wild state after Columbus' time. About a hundred years after the discovery of America broiled young turkeys became great delicacies on the Frenchman's table.

An Unclaimed Prize.

Years ago the French government offered \$50,000 to any one who would give a remedy for the phylloxera, but the prize has never been awarded, because no remedy has been discovered. It is easy enough to kill the pest with a poisonous spray, but that same spray kills the grape also.

Stone Blotters.

Austrians use a stone blotting pad that practically never wears out. A little scraping with a knife cleans it effectively.

Fish Candles.

In Alaska is found a kind of fish that makes a capital candle when it is dried. The tail of the fish is stuck into a crack of a wooden table to hold it upright and its nose is lighted. It gives a good, steady light of three candlepower and considerable heat and will burn for about three hours.

Rome.

Of all European cities Rome is that which has most frequently been in the hands of enemies. It has been entered or sacked more than forty times since 200 B. C.

Useless Territory.

No other empire in the world owns so much absolutely useless territory as the British. Banks Land, Prince Albert Land, Victoria Land and Baffin Land, with hundreds of other arctic islands and lands, are at present quite useless.

Must Be Sent Home.

Destitute Englishmen abroad can demand to be sent home. They apply to their consul, who gives notice accordingly to captains of ships about to sail.

Knighthood.

Knighthood was intended to serve as a mark of distinction for deeds of renown and merit. "Knight" properly signifies a person who for his virtue and martial prowess is raised from the rank of gentlemen into a higher class of dignity and honor.

Tobacco.

Tobacco was first grown for export in this country in 1610.

Bees as Embalmers.

When a snail blunders in among the bees they cannot kill him on account of the protection of his shell. So they embalm him alive. They cover him, shell and all, with snowy wax. He is a prisoner which death only releases.

As a special inducement to NEW SUBSCRIBERS, THE NEWS will be sent from the date of subscription until January 1, 1908, for \$1.25; in blocks of five subscriptions sent all at one time, to 5 addresses, \$5.00.

Cause of Excitement.



The poor gentleman sees the ghost of his mother-in-law whom he thought safe in heaven.

Not Much.



May—There goes Edna's husband. What do you think of him? Eva—Oh! his clothes don't fit him very well, do they? May—But supposing they did?



Editor:—Yes, that's my idea of a poem. Poet:—No, it's mine. It's yours for two dollars.

Had Enough for Two.



"You want your husband to break smoking? One must have a strong will to do that." "Well, I have a strong will."

DIFFICULTIES OF AMBASSADOR.

Only persons who are well endowed with this world's goods can stand the strain placed upon their resources by serving their country at the great capitals of Europe, says the Pittsburgh Gazette. The beggarly salary of an Ambassador is hardly sufficient to pay his house rent, and the large sums which he is forced to spend in performing the social duties placed on him in one of the punctilious seats of government abroad make heavy inroads on his private resources. There are rich Senators in Congress, but all the Senators are not rich and don't have to be. On the other hand, it is impossible or a poor man to hold certain of the great diplomatic places. The consequence is that promotion is only possible to a very limited extent, and men of special talents but without fortunes are prevented from making the most of their gifts because they have not the big opportunities.

In this state it is not necessary to serve a five days' notice for eviction of a cold. Use the original laxative cough syrup, Kennedy's Laxative Honey and Tar. No opiates. Sold by G. W. Fisher.

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\$91.30 San Francisco, Cal., on sale daily, limit Oct. 31.

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\$37.00 Washington, D. C., on sale daily, limit Oct. 31.

\$57.80 Denver, Colo., on sale daily, limit Oct. 31.

\$64.75 Bar Harbor, Me., on sale daily, limit Oct. 31.

\$46.05 Chicago, Ill., on sale daily, limit Oct. 31.

\$22.85 Wrightsville, N. C., on sale daily, limit Oct. 31.

\$54.10 Saratoga Springs, N. Y., on sale daily, limit Oct. 31.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

\$38.40 Hot Springs, Arkansas, on sale daily, limit Oct. 31.

\$16.35 Monticello, Va., on sale July 28, 29, 30, Aug. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

\$20.70 Richmond, Va., on sale Sept. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

\$17.65 Memphis, Tenn., on sale Sept. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

\$34.95 Toronto, Ont., on sale Sept. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

No trouble about getting a ticket. Excursion tickets on other points. Limits, which may be extended at other points, subject to the rules of application, in the agent's office.

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New Sunlight.

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Notice of Application for Tax and Fees.

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